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Croatia

Grain and Feed

Crop Situation Update

2004

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Report Highlights:

This year's excessive spring rain could result in lower wheat and corn production with production at 750,000 MT for wheat and 1,900,000 MT for corn. With only 20 percent of spring wheat and almost no corn planted, estimates are still preliminary. However, the unfavorable spring weather might have the same effect as last year's drought and result in small wheat and corn imports.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Vienna [AU1]
[HR]

Wheat

Rainy April resulted in postponed spring sowing, so it is still too soon to predict the 2004 crop. The wheat crop wintered well and was in a good condition before the rain started. Since spring sowing will be late, the 2004 crop is expected to be about 750,000 MT, which doesn't leave any surplus for export. The situation could even result in small imports because of low production in 2003 and questionable stocks.

If weather conditions improve soon, sowing is expected on the same acreage as last year, which was 195,000 ha. This is 10% less than in 2001. The decrease in acreage is part of a four-year trend that is being encouraged by a new government support system that gives higher returns to oilseeds. The subsidy for grain crops will be Kn 1,650 (\$265/ha) for a minimum 3 ha of production.

Because of low production in 2003, the Croatian Government introduced export tariffs to impede exports of wheat (2.9 Euros/100 kg export tariff from December 2003 to May 2004) and allowed imports of 80,000 MT of wheat on 0 % tariff quota in January 2004.

Corn

The corn crop for 2004 is expected to be at the same level as in 2003. This is somewhat lower than usual at 1,900,000 MT of corn from 400,000 ha. Drought resulted in lower production last year, and it looks excessive spring raining will have the same impact this year. Sowing will be done (most likely) in May, which will result in a late harvest and somewhat lower yields, since the optimum time for sowing in Croatia is between April 10 to 25. The subsidy will be Kuna 1,250 (\$201) for a minimum 3 ha of production.

Because of last years drought and lower corn yields, the Government of Croatia (GOC) introduced an export tariff of 30% from September 2003 until March 2004, and in March of this year the GOC introduced import TRQ of 0% for 150,000 MT of corn.

For biotechnology issues see Gain Reports (HR 3019, 3023, 3024, 4002, 4006). In general Croatia is trying to adopt legislation that is compliant with EU biotech legislation.

Tariffs and TRQs for grain commodities can be requested from USDA's Zagreb office:

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